



IOWA FIRSTNET PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT

Summit. Iowa FirstNet held a Public Private Partnership Summit in Des Moines on August 25, 2016, to disseminate information and take questions from those attending. FirstNet is a proposed nationwide broadband network just for public safety users. The discussion panel consisted of:

- Ric Lombard, Executive Director, Iowa Communications Network (ICN)
- Bob Von Wolfradt, Iowa Chief Information Officer (OCIO)
- Sgt. Thomas Lampe, Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Dave Duncan, CEO, Iowa Communications Alliance
- Ryan Boone, Regulatory Manager, Premier Communications, Inc.
- Ray Warner, Manager, Aueron Technology

FirstNet Update. Request for Proposals (RFP) to select a private partner for the deployment of FirstNet were due on May 31, 2016. The evaluation of those RFPs is currently being conducted, and an award and contract should be in place by the end of 2016.

Current Status in Iowa. The Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) formed an Opt-in/Opt-out Task Force. The report authored by this task force was shared at the summit. Some points of that report include:

- Many states will either “not-opt” or “opt-in.” States not choosing an option, or “not-opt,” allow FirstNet to proceed.
- Governors may choose to “opt-out.”
- Opt-Out states are required to build their own networks.

Ric Lombard stated that there would be situations where opting out for Iowa would ultimately be recommended if the plan offered for Iowa is not suitable. If that were to happen, a public/private partnership would need to be developed, and there would be many federal requirements to meet. The decision for opting in or opting out will be made after FirstNet delivers the final state plan to the Governor.

Iowa has surveyed 157 agencies and developed a comprehensive data base of assets within the state. Work is currently occurring with the tribal areas within the state to survey needs. Also, a new endeavor by the ISICSB will be metro engagements. These will be city-area discussions to update on FirstNet progress, implementation schedules, and timelines. Additionally, a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement is being developed for the five regional areas of the United States. A public meeting will be held at the Hyatt Place Des Moines/Downtown on September 7, 2016, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. to obtain information and provide public comments.

Prime Vendor. Once the RFP evaluation is over, the prime vendor contract will be awarded. The state plan for Iowa would then come from that vendor. The consensus of this panel is that Iowa is still well-positioned to be one of the first states receiving a state plan, as Iowa has participated from very early in the process.

Additional Information. Additional information regarding FirstNet is available on the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) [website](#) and at the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) [website](#).

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